

Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and the laws of the United States until 1865.

That is simply what it says. It is a very simple idea. The Congress apologizes. It is a powerful message.

When a brother wrongs a brother, he apologizes. That is the foundation for beginning again. That is the price for restoring lost trust. This is the only way to start over. It is a simple gesture. It carries deep meaning. And it is the right thing to do.

When an institution wrongs a people, so it is again the right thing to do. In the name of all Catholics, Pope John Paul II apologized for violence during the 16th century Counter-Reformation and he asked for forgiveness.

Forty years after the Holocaust, the legislature of East Germany apologized for the atrocities committed against the Jews.

Just last month, British Prime Minister Tony Blair apologized for the failure of his country to fully respond to the thousands of deaths during the Irish potato famine of the mid-19th century.

It has been 134 years since slavery ended. Since that time, Congress has taken proud strides forward, done some wonderful things, including civil rights laws. But it is not enough.

Look around. The effects still linger today. Through my work as chairman of the former House Select Committee on Hunger and through my efforts to improve the lives of America's poor, I have seen the effects firsthand. We as a nation must do more. This is not a political gesture, it is not a partisan gesture, it is a very simple gesture and it certainly is the right thing.

The slaves and slave holders are long gone. No one alive today is responsible for slavery. No one alive today was shackled by the chains of slavery in America. Indeed, most Americans are the descendants of people who came to the United States after slavery ended.

All of us today, white and black, live in the shadow of our past. African-Americans today still suffer from the lingering effects. We all pay the price of slavery.

The hatred and racial divisions springing from slavery are very much alive. Let us take this step to bury that hatred with the bones of the slaves and the slave holders.

No Member of Congress today voted on measures to perpetuate slavery. But the Congress as an institution does bear responsibility. The laws we passed ignored, even encouraged slavery. Our Constitution, the foundation for the Congress, and our Government even declared at one time that a black man was only three-fifths of a person.

Congress is a great institution. It is the most respected deliberative body in the world. At least three times in recent years, Congress formally apologized.

In 1988, it apologized to the Japanese-Americans who were interned in the United States during World War II.

In 1993, Congress offered a formal apology to native Hawaiians for the role the United States and U.S. citizens played in the overthrow of the government of the Kingdom of Hawaii 100 years earlier.

In 1990, Congress apologized to uranium miners, people affected by nuclear tests in Nevada, and their families.

An apology by Congress is rare, it is special, but it is not without precedence. Apologizing is symbolic, but it has a great meaning for those who are apologizing and it has power for those who are wronged.

Why apologize to just African-Americans for slavery? What about all the other people who have been wronged by laws passed by the Congress? The wrongs against African-Americans are clear to everyone. The consequences are severe. Maybe we have wronged others. Maybe an apology to them is due. I do not know. That is another issue. I do know that we need to apologize to African-Americans.

Many people have told me that apologizing is an empty, meaningless gesture. If it was so meaningless, why has the resolution erupted a fire storm of controversy throughout this Nation? If apologizing were so easy, then why is this resolution so difficult?

No, it is not easy to apologize. It is the right thing to do. Today 134 years later, it is not too late, but let us wait no longer. We are a nation of immigrants. Those who came as free men went in one direction. Those who came from slave ships, another. If we are to travel towards a common future, we owe it to our children to clearly mark that the early fork in the road was the wrong way.

This is a simple resolution. It simply reads:

Resolved by the House of Representatives that the Congress apologizes to African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, there is only one thing worse than committing an injustice. There is perhaps only one thing that makes a mistake last forever, and that Mr. Speaker is the failure to offer an apology and to ask for forgiveness. We cannot make amends to our ancestors who were slaves. We cannot right all the wrongs of the past which have contributed to racism and economic injustice. But, we can say that this Nation is very sorry for the saddest chapter in its history.

One of the most profound changes in the history of this society occurred more than 100 years ago. The Civil War rocked the roots of this Nation. The war tested the resolve of the American people to form a more perfect union. It brought an end to slavery—the curse that robbed thousands of Americans of their basic human rights and sabotaged the fundamental premise of equality to which every person is entitled.

The end of slavery in the 19th century and the establishment of the Civil Rights Act in the 20th century were turning points in the history of this Nation. Now, as we approach the 21st century it is time to move further ahead in our quest for a truly democratic society.

On Saturday, President Clinton gave a major address on the race problem that plagues our Nation. In this spirit we embrace the Resolution to Apologize for Slavery. May we begin now to chart the next course toward the achievement of a truly equal, truly color-blind society.

Mr. Speaker, I join other colleagues in co-sponsoring the House concurrent resolution to apologize to all African-Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves. This apology is long overdue, but it is never too late to do what is right.

#### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "MARV" TEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. BOB SCHAFFER, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of Mr. George "Marv" Teal. Marv was born July 4, 1943, to Genevieve O'Brien Teal, while his father, George Vincent Teal, served in the Philippines during World War II. As a boy he thought it was wonderful that the city threw him a big birthday party each year with a parade and fireworks. George was tagged with the nickname "Marv" in high school and it stuck with him throughout his life.

Marv died May 21, 1997 in Greeley, CO, where he and his family settled 15 years ago. He was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver on May 27, 1997. He was married to Kathy for 29 years. Together they raised three children: A son, George Patrick Teal who is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army serving as a special projects officer. He has two daughters, Suellen and Kathleen, who are both computer technologists. He also has a granddaughter Laurel, who will be 2 in August. Marv and Kathy raised a lovely family and supported many community activities.

A staunch Republican, he spent many years in leadership roles as precinct chairman, district captain, Weld County vice chairman, county and State assembly delegate, and of course as delegate to the Colorado Fourth Congressional District. He also served as election judge and canvass board member. He contributed his efforts to individual campaigns over the years and was an effective strategist helpful in planning the time lines necessary for the success of those campaigns. George was always to be seen at late night committee meetings, at county and State assemblies and at busy intersections waving campaign signs. There was never a time when a call for help went unheeded. There was also never a time when he expected to be recognized for his efforts. Marv did what he did out of principle. Many people have been influenced by this wise, experienced man. He knew the secret of multiplying his influence by encouraging others of like mind to take leadership in the public realm.

Marv was a quiet man, respectful of others, slow to anger and quick to forgive. He loved reading, flying, computer programming, and bicycling. His proudest accomplishments were of course his children. His son George followed through on the love of country Marv tried to instill by serving in the military and his daughters both followed his love of computers.

That was in fact Marv's first love. After graduating from St. Francis High School in Wheaton, IL, in 1961, he attended a technical school specializing in computer programming. Having his daughters become adept computer specialists was a definite source of fatherly pride. Marv came back to the computer field toward the end of his working career after spending many years in sales.

As a young man Marv was drafted into the Army in 1965 during the first big draft of the Vietnam war. He felt privileged to serve his country as his father and his grandfather had done before him, and he thought it was his patriotic duty. He excelled in turbine generator school at Fort Belvoir, VA, graduating first in his class. He never got to use his mechanics training, though, because he was never sent to Vietnam. Instead he served out the rest of his time in Fort Campbell, KY as a company clerk, supply officer, and finished his last 9 months of service in his favorite duty, as a military policeman.

Marv spent the rest of his life focused on his wife, children, and community. For 10 years he and Kathy were team leaders for World Wide Marriage Encounter weekends for the Catholic church. They were privileged to coordinate more than 60 weekends to help couples make their good marriages into great committed relationships. Marv and Kathy facilitated marriage preparation classes for their church. Marv was also instrumental in forming the Rite of Christian Initiative for Adults at St. Mary's Parish in Greeley. He demonstrated his love of teaching and for young people as a confirmation teacher for 9 years. He was also a board member of Habitat for Humanity and Citizens for Responsible Government.

Marv understood the meaning of the grassroots political process and exemplified it daily. It is people like Marv who contribute to the greatness of America, the behind-the-scenes hard work essential to our communities and the makeup of the character of this great Nation. I am privileged to have known him and experience the results of his efforts. They will not go unappreciated. His memory and the influence he had on us and our Nation will far outlive his life. Each time we celebrate our independence and the freedoms we too often take for granted, we need to remember the contributions of people like Marv.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a short poem that Marv considered his statement of his life's philosophy and indeed it was the best description of his life as a devoted father, a husband, and American.

## DESIDERATA

(By Max Ehrmann)

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations of the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for there will always be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

## ONGOING TOBACCO INDUSTRY NEGOTIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the negotiations that are going on at the present time with the tobacco industry, they are requesting that they be excused from punitive damages.

I want to point out to my colleagues that the tobacco industry for 4 decades has misled and deceived the American people about their product. They have lied to the Congress, and they have kept documents secret. Last week we revealed documents that had not been public before from the Liggett Tobacco Co. where they had an attorney-client privilege to try to keep these documents from the public where they knew about a safer cigarette but did not want to make a safer cigarette because their lawyers said that would mean that the cigarette they were already making was unsafe and they would be presumably admitting that.

□ 1315

They refused to turn over to medical people information about the harm from cigarettes because they were fearful of the liability that might attach to them.

Now those documents are simply the tip of the iceberg. There are over 150,000 documents that have claimed to be attorney client privilege. The attorney client privilege will not shield documents if there is fraud or criminal conduct involved, and I believe that if these documents become public, they may well lead to criminal charges being brought.

One of the reasons the tobacco industry is so anxious for a settlement is that one of the terms of their settlement is that these documents would be kept secret forever.

Now if these documents became public, we would know whether there ought to be punitive damages in some of these lawsuits. How can we agree in any negotiation to excuse the tobacco industry from punitive damages without knowing all the facts?

So I would hope that those people that are sitting down and discussing what might be a recommendation to the Congress for settlement of a lot of these issues regarding tobacco will not recommend to us to excuse and forgive the tobacco companies for any actions they may have undertaken that would amount to punitive damages before we know fully what actions they have been engaged in. What we do know is that for four decades they have acted in a way that we would never accept from any other business or corporation in this country. They have manufactured a product and sold it knowing it is harmful and claiming the contrary to be true. They have sold a product that is addictive, and they knew that to be the case, and they denied it. They were targeting our kids, and then they denied it. What are punitive damages all about except to punish people who have acted wrongly? And if the tobacco industry has not acted wrongly in these last four decades, what industry could possibly be accused of acting more wrongly?

I hope they do not come back and recommend to us that we forgive the tobacco industry for their wrongdoing and not hold them accountable if in fact punitive damages are warranted.

## GIVE TAX RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE PAYING THE TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, we have legislation coming before this body that would give tax relief back to the American people.

My father took home 85 percent of his paycheck. My daughters are scheduled to take home 10 percent of their